

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1-33. (canceled).

34. (previously presented) A stable gene formulation lyophilized from an aqueous solution comprising:

a) a closed circular plasmid vector comprising a desired gene; and

b) citric acid, tartaric acid or a mixture thereof.

35. (previously presented) The stable gene formulation of claim 34, further comprising an atelocollagen.

36. (previously presented) The stable gene formulation of claim 34 or 35, further comprising a cationic lipid, a cationic polymer, or a hydrophobic polymer.

*(previously presented)*

37. (new) A method for stabilizing a closed circular DNA molecule in a formulation, comprising:

adding citric acid or tartaric acid, or a salt thereof, to an aqueous solution of the closed circular DNA molecule and atelocollagen, and

lyophilizing the solution.